Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identifying Barriers to the Use of Ultrasound in Perioperative Period: A Survey of Southwestern Ontario Anesthesiologists

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Dear Editor in Chief, BMC Health Services Research


I would like to thank you for reviewing our manuscript and granting an opportunity for us to further improve this article. I highly appreciate the time and efforts of all the reviewers and yourself in providing us with valuable feedback, and all the comments are very thoughtful and constructive. We
have responded and addressed all the questions in the manuscript. All changes to the manuscript are indicated in the text by highlighting or using track changes. Again, thank you for considering our manuscript for publication.

Yours faithfully,

Jason Chui

BHSR-D-19-00161
Identifying Barriers to the Use of Ultrasound in Perioperative Period: A Survey of Southwestern Ontario Anesthesiologists
Jason Chui; Ronit Lavi, MD, FRCPC; Ahmed F Hegazy, MD, FRCPC; Philp M Jones, MD, FRCPC; Ramiro Arellano, MD, FRCPC; Homer Yang, MD, FRCPC; Daniel Bainbridge, MD, FRCPC
BMC Health Services Research

Dear Dr. Chui,

Your manuscript "Identifying Barriers to the Use of Ultrasound in Perioperative Period: A Survey of Southwestern Ontario Anesthesiologists" (BHSR-D-19-00161) has been assessed by our reviewers. They have raised a number of points which we believe would improve the manuscript and may allow a revised version to be published in BMC Health Services Research.

Their reports, together with any other comments, are below. Please also take a moment to check our website at https://www.editorialmanager.com/bhsr/ for any additional comments that were saved as attachments. Please note that as BMC Health Services Research has a policy of open peer review, you will be able to see the names of the reviewers.

If you are able to fully address these points, we would encourage you to submit a revised manuscript to BMC Health Services Research.

Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit online at:

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A point-by-point response letter must accompany your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised, describing exactly what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be viewed (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). Please also ensure that all changes to the manuscript are indicated in the text by highlighting or using track changes. If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to
help explain and justify your decision.

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 04 Apr 2019.

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I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Phil Hider
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https://bmchealthservres.biomedcentral.com/

Editor Comments:
BMC Health Services Research operates a policy of open peer review, which means that you will be able to see the names of the reviewers who provided the reports via the online peer review system. We encourage you to also view the reports there, via the action links on the left-hand side of the page, to see the names of the reviewers.
Reviewer reports:
James C. Fackler, MD (Reviewer 1): It was a pleasure to review the manuscript, "Identifying Barriers to the Use of Ultrasound in Perioperative Period:..." by Chui et al.

As a minor point, the title should read ...in the Perioperative Period.
Response: Thank you very much. We have changed the title to “in the Perioperative Period”.

In brief, the authors sought survey responses from 266 anesthesia clinicians about ultrasound practices and received a 25% response. As an oversimplification, about 60% of the responders felt access to ultrasound machines was rate limiting. That the issue is felt settled by the Canadian Anesthesia Association is evidenced by the quote from reference 5.
Response: Thank you very much for your comment. The current Canadian Anaesthesiologists’ Society (CAS) guideline was published at 2016. Our survey in 2018 found many responders felt access to ultrasound machines was still very limited, which reflected that the issue has not been settled by the CAS guideline.

Methodology.
A 48 question survey that took 30-45 minutes to complete, seems to have been a design flaw. Given what you now know, might it make sense to resurvey the 266 with a farmer focused and shorter questionnaire?
Response: We agreed with your comments that the survey was lengthy. In the future, we will use a focused approach using a shorter questionnaire.

Is there data from another source to know the overall demographics of the 266 clinicians so this 25% can be placed in context. An obvious bias is those who chose to spend the 1/2 hour may have been polar opposites as either luddites or zealots.
Response: We agree with your comments on non-responder bias. We have mentioned in the Limitations Page 13 Line 8, “our results suffer from non-responder bias, the non-responders of the survey were likely the one who had less interest in US.”

Finally, there are clearly policy issues associated with these conclusions. Can the authors present a back-of-the-envelope estimate of the cost necessary to provide 100% access? Given the data in the literature, it might be possible to estimate a value added (in reducing complications and/or OR time).
Response: Thank you for this excellent comment. We have placed a comment in Page 13 Line 3-6.

Mohamed Seisa, MD (Reviewer 2): Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.
Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.